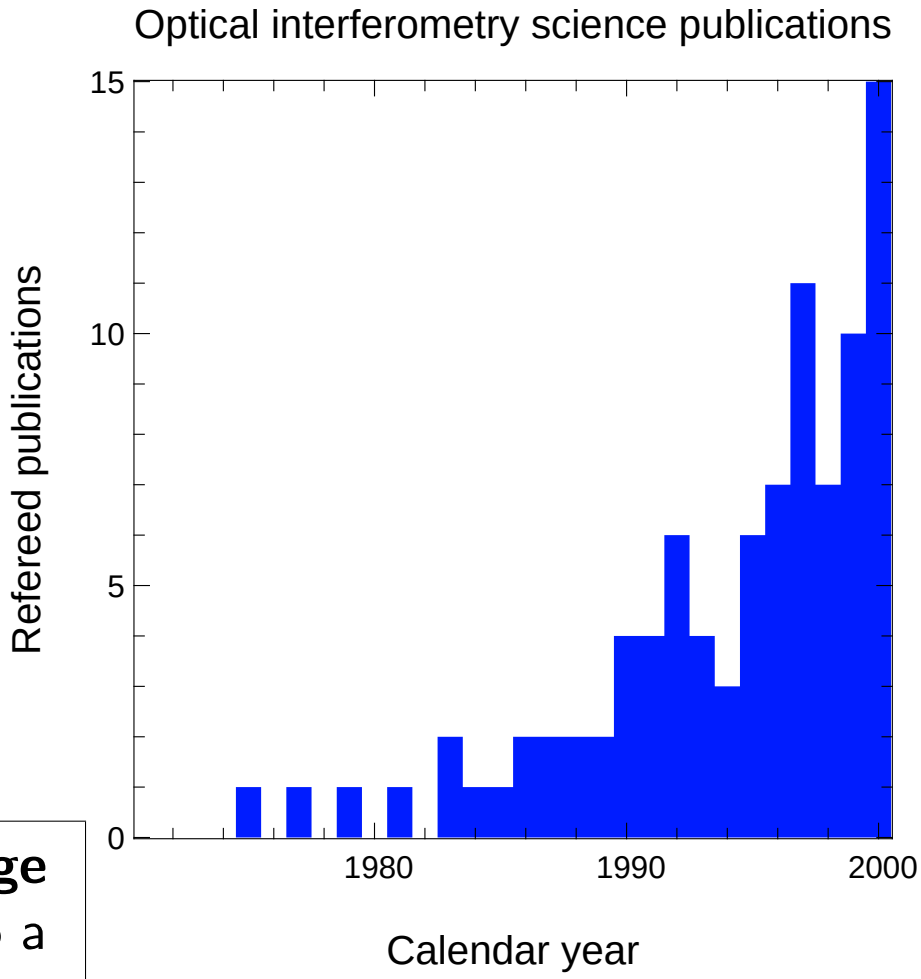
Interferometry today

Science topics:

- stellar parameters (R, $T_{\rm eff}$, ...)
- shells of late-type stars
- Be/P Cyg shells
- binary star orbits
- stellar atmosphere
- young stellar objects
- novae
- cepheids
- ...

With only 6-7 **" small "** interferometers.

Q: what will be the trend with **large** and **automated** arrays, opened to a **wide** community?



adapted from Ridgway, in Michelson 1999 Summer Schoo

What type of science?

- science objectives depends on instrument design and hardware
  - ⋆ 2-tel. visibility measurements
  - ⋆ N-tel. imaging
  - ⋆ wide- and narrow-angle astrometry
  - ⋆ nulling

  ⇒ diversity *vs* dispersion of the efforts
- flux sensitivity is a major issue
  - ⋆ increase the volume of investigation (stars ⟶ galaxies)
  - ⋆ sophisticated instruments (polarization, high spectral dispersion, high dynamic,...) requires photons.
- depends on instrument efficiency
  - ⋆ degree of automation
  - ⋆ proportion of overheads

  ⇒ opens the door to statistical studies
- angular resolution *vs* field of view (compact/extended objects)

  ⇒ multi-scale observations

Personal point of view

- No doubts that the science results will still increase
- However efforts should be made to **increase the sensitivity** and to **reduce the overheads**
- We should discuss *new observing modes* versus *science productivity*

  Suggestion:
  Maybe we should specialize the interferometers / instruments and increase the collaborations by exchanging:

  ⋆ observing time
  ⋆ data of various type
  ⋆ models